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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been carefully considered in light of the Final Office Action of July 13, 2004. As a result, claims 1 and 66 have been amended in a further effort to more distinctly define the present invention with respect to the prior art.

Claims 1 through 68 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,280,667 to Koenig et al. Claims 1 and 66 have been amended to clearly state that the process steps to the present invention include maintaining the temperature of the plastic/wood fiber mixture below the active volatilizing temperature. This limitation has been clearly set forth in the specification and has been included in the primary mixing process step.

In the reference to Koenig, the temperature of the plastic/wood fiber mixture is elevated above the volatilizing temperature prior to the mixture being extruded. This results in very large cell sizes in the resultant end product which would not be the case with the present invention.

In view of the distinguishing characteristics between the process of the present invention in maintaining the temperature of the plastic/wood fiber mixture below the active volatilizing temperature throughout the process steps, as currently amended in claims 1 of 66, it is believed that these claims are now clearly distinguishable with respect to the prior art reference. Further, because of the process steps, a different product is obtained with smaller cell sizes.

Due to the amendment to claim 1, claims 8, 12, 26-45, 48 and 56-65 have been cancelled without prejudice.

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In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

It is requested this response after final be entered into the record for purposes of placing the application in condition for allowance or for purposes of supporting an appeal.

As this response is being filed after the shortened statutory period a separate request for an additional third month extension of time is being submitted herewith along with the required extension of time fees. A petition for a two month extension was filed December 13, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,


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Re: 

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